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Foreign Capabilities and Threat

I. Chemical Capabilities and Threat

A. Warsaw Pact

General - The Soviet Armed Forces are the best equipped and prepared in the world to launch chemical attacks and to operate in a toxic chemical environment. The Soviet/Warsaw Pact forces possess and are continuing to develop a well organized, effective capability for chemical warfare operations that represents a serious military threat to NATO. The USSR offensive capability for CW is substantial. They have developed, produced and stockpiled agents which are effective over a period of minutes to weeks and which have a wide range of physiological effects.

A large, well-equipped and well-trained chemical-biological-radiological (CBR) organization is organic to the WP force structure. We estimate that the organization probably numbers up to well over 50,000 and possibly up to 100,000 personnel. In addition to the CBR troops, all other combat and combat support forces receive excellent CBR training and equipment. They are unsurpassed in their capability to protect themselves and to conduct offensive and defensive tactical operations when "mass destruction" weapons are used.

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Each Soviet fleet (Northern, Baltic, Black Sea and Pacific) has an identical CW organization which is responsible for CW storage, maintenance and administrative aspects. CW protection aboard most Soviet ships includes the citadel concept, external washdown systems, and rounded decks. The Soviet Navy frequently trains in CW protective measures.

Little specific information is available about the CBR effort of the USSR Air Forces.

Command and Control - The Soviets control chemical weapons in the Pact countries, and first use of chemical weapons requires Moscow's approval. Soviet military doctrine places chemical weapons along with nuclear and biological weapons in the category of "Weapons of Mass Destruction." Chemical weapons are likely to be used only in a nuclear conflict. However, there is the possibility that chemical weapons might be used independently by the Soviets. Although not specifically stated in military writings, in a non-nuclear conflict, the probable use of chemical weapons would be prior to a nuclear attack, in defense of the "Homeland", or in retaliation to a chemical attack. The Warsaw Pact military doctrine designates the Front or Army echelon to be the focal point for planning, coordinating and executing the employment of chemical weapons.

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While in a non-nuclear operation, they would certainly retaliate in kind if attacked with chemical weapons, but they would be less likely to use chemical weapons from the outset against an opponent capable of retaliating in kind. They would probably reserve them as an additional measure to be taken if operations do not go according to plan. Once the decision to use weapons of mass destruction has been promulgated, the Soviets could be expected to use chemical as well as nuclear weapons.

Training and Delivery Capabilities - The Soviet/WP forces are continuing to upgrade their already formidable capabilities for tactical operations when chemical and nuclear weapons are used. The expected use of CW weapons against NATO forces continues to be a significant factor in Warsaw Pact planning documents and exercise scenarios.

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Soviet forces train extensively for operations in toxic environments. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Personal protective equipment is available to all fighting forces and support personnel. Chemical specialists and units exist in all formations down to regiment. Their importance has been emphasized through a reorganization and enlargement. They are responsible for technical advice, decontamination, reconnaissance and the operation of all specialized equipment and vehicles. Combat and combat support units are well-trained in protective and decontamination

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techniques. All medical support units train to care for the mass casualties expected from nuclear, chemical or biological warfare.

CBR training areas are becoming more sophisticated, improved training methods are being developed, and equipment is being improved and fielded at an increasing rate. Of special note is the stated Soviet desire to find improved toxic and radioactive simulants and the means for using them on a wide scale in troop exercises.

There is no evidence, from any available source, which suggests a slowdown or waning interest in chemical weapons or efforts dedicated to improving troop operations in toxic environments. 25X1

The Soviet/Warsaw Pact (WP) Forces are prepared to employ CW weapons against North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) forces or any other forces and to operate in the toxic environment created by the use of CW weapons. Warsaw Pact philosophy envisions the employment of CW weapons in a war, particularly with NATO forces, in conjunction with either conventional or nuclear weapons. A variety of delivery systems and chemical agents for use against any tactical target in the battle area is available to Front Commanders. The probable CW agents and delivery systems are shown in Figure I.

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Munitions - The Pact forces have a variety of systems capable of delivering nerve, mustard/lewisite and hydrogen cyanide CW agents. These systems include artillery (including multiple rocket launchers), mortars, FROGs, Scuds, aerial bombs and possibly spray tanks. We anticipate that chemical munitions are to be used in tactical situations. Those targets beyond artillery/missile range can be reached with aircraft. We have good evidence that toxic chemical munitions are available to the Soviet forces in Eastern Europe. There is little doubt that the Soviets possess substantial stocks of toxic chemical agents, but the size and distribution of their stockpile cannot be estimated.

Protection - Interwoven throughout all of the formidable efforts being put forth by the Soviets and other Warsaw pact forces is the credo that a viable CBR protection posture is a prerequisite to their employing mass destruction weapons whether nuclear, chemical, or biological. Increasing numbers of combat and combat support vehicles with integrated CBR collection protection systems are appearing throughout the Warsaw Pact area. There are at least 10,000 Soviet produced decontamination vehicles and reconnaissance vehicles in the Warsaw Pact area. There is a determined effort in R&D, production and training to assure that Soviet forces are able to operate when "mass destruction weapons" are used. CW test activity is apparently increasing as are live firing and troop training exercises.

Soviet forces are the best prepared and equipped forces in the world to operate in a CBR environment produced either by an enemy or themselves. The Soviets have devoted more resources than the U.S. to CBR defense/protection, and this reflects their high level of concern for the survivability of their

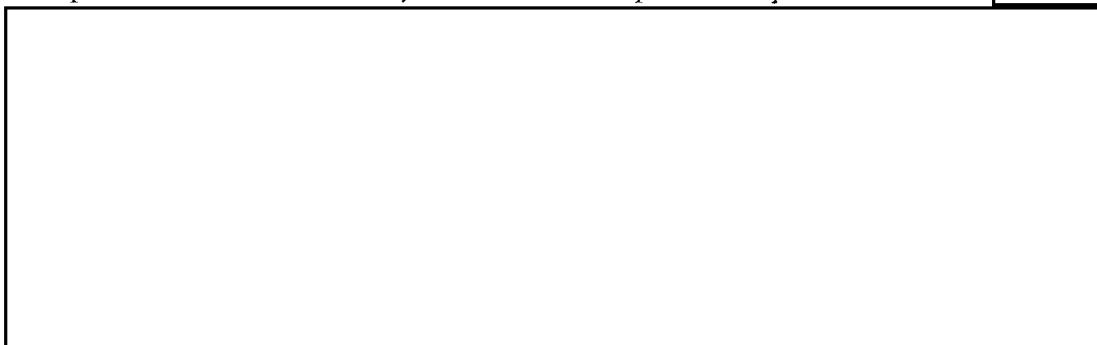
forces in a CBR environment. The Pact countries have developed extensive CBR organizations with specialized units down to the regimental level for technical reconnaissance and decontamination. In the early 1970's, the Soviets began upgrading CBR units by adding a reconnaissance element to lower echelons.

The Pact nations have furnished their forces with a variety of good quality and well constructed CBR equipment. In recent years, Soviet forces have been receiving newer models of equipment designed to improve their effectiveness in a CBR environment. New APCs and perhaps new tanks, along with some trucks as well as various types of support equipment, are equipped with advanced filtration and protective systems. The number of TMS-65 special jet engine decontamination vehicles in the Pact inventory has increased substantially in recent years. CBR training for the Pact forces is extensive and frequent. Pact exercises have included the use of chemical weapons in the scenarios. Training of chemical defense units has included the use of toxic agents at sophisticated CBR sites. All these measures enable the Pact forces to operate in a CBR environment more effectively than NATO forces.

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Production and Storage - A number of chemical plants reportedly produced chemical agents in previous years going back to WWI. Since World War II, new plants undoubtedly have been put in production.

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It is believed that the major effort has been to upgrade the stockpile with the newer nerve agents.

Chemical weapons are believed to be stored in central chemical depots in military districts, regional chemical depots, and some are undoubtedly in part of regular munitions depots. Some CW munitions are thought to be in NSWP countries, under control of the Soviets. The Soviets have promised to provide such support in time of war, but only amounts necessary for training are in hands of NSWP forces. Amounts actually stored are not known but are believed to be capable of sustaining supplies for an all out nuclear/chemical war for at least 30 days and possibly longer. Storage facilities where such munitions and bulk agents are suspected of being stored appear adequate for this.

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B. Peoples Republic of China (PRC)

The PRC chemical warfare program has emphasized defense/protection aspects. The PRC is knowledgeable of conventional and nerve CW agents and has the capability to produce militarily significant quantities if required. The CW agent stockpile size, composition, and current agent production status are unknown.

PRC CW protective equipment, mostly Soviet in origin or design, is good but is not available in quantities sufficient to provide the PRC Army with more than a limited protective capability. Elite forces are fully equipped with CBR protective equipment and receive specialized training in all phases of offensive and defensive chemical warfare. Training for Army and Navy forces emphasizes defense against a CW attack and can best be described as fair.

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3. Iraq

Iraq intends to develop an offensive CW program. R & D scientists and engineers (without direct

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Soviet help) have produced laboratory quantities of nerve agent and recently Iraq purchased a small nerve agent reactor. There are unsubstantiated reports concerning the existence of storage and production sites. Iraq has purchased protective equipment and several types of artillery pieces capable of delivering CW munitions from the Soviets. In addition, Iraqi officers have taken CW training in the USSR and Soviet experts have been reported training Iraqi troops in CW tactics.